
BRIEFING COVER MEMO
INTERNATIONAL TRADE, EXPORT PROMOTION, SMALL BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TO: MINISTER NG

FROM: ZACHARY NIXON

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR OTTAWA SMALL BUSINESSES ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2022

CC/REVIEWED BY: ALICE HANSEN, BLUE KNOX, KENZIE MCKEEGAN, JILLIAN WHITE

TIME/DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT: FEBRUARY 18, 2022, 9:30AM-10:00AM

FORMAT: VIRTUAL

Minister,

This memo provides with context ahead of tomorrow's announcement in which Minister Jacek will announce \$20 million in support through FedDev for Ottawa businesses. You will be joined by Minister Fortier and Yasir Naqvi. The announcement will be taking place virtually. You have a hard stop at 10:00AM as you have House Duty.

Attached for your reference:

- Scenario Note;
- Media Document;
- QA;
- Remarks;

Context:

This announcement follows from the advocacy of your office, Minister Fortier and Yasir Naqvi. FedDev will be receiving \$20 million to deliver non-repayable contributions (grants) of \$10,000 to eligible businesses impacted by the ongoing demonstrations in Ottawa.

The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- have less than 100 employees;
- be located in and around the 11 BIAs: Somerset Chinatown; Somerset Village; Bank Street; Sparks Street; ByWard Market; Downtown Rideau; Westboro Village; Vanier; Glebe; Wellington West, Preston including Sandy Hill and Elgin Street
- be providing in-person services (and could not transition to virtual services in the short-term) and were unable to operate their business at normal levels due to the demonstrations (i.e., unable to open, reduced hours of operations, customers unable to reach them); and,
- have been viable prior to the current economic disruption and intend to continue operations (e.g. applicants may be asked provide data on past revenue levels).

In addition to eligibility criteria on the front end, businesses will need to attest to the following, which will preserve program integrity on the back end:

- attest financial losses of at least \$10,000; and,
- identify how the \$10,000 would be used to off-set operating costs (e.g., costs could include: utilities, insurance, bank charges, loss of inventory (i.e., spoiled food); and any extraordinary costs related to the repair or protection of a business due to the demonstration).

The support will flow through Invest Ottawa, which has been identified as a good partner because of their knowledge of the City and has experience flowing smaller grants to businesses. FedDev estimates that there are between 1500 and 2000 impacted businesses.

[APG]